

19 Card Prediction

You will need a full deck of cards (no jokers), a pencil, paper, and four spectators.

Set up:

Hold the cards face up in both hands and run through the deck slowly from the face of the deck counting up to the nineteenth card. REMEMBER THIS CARD!!! While you are doing this tell your students that you are doing one of two things : (A) looking for jokers or (B) counting the cards to see if you have them all.

Presentation:

Set the deck on the table, pick up a pencil and a sheet of paper and write down the card that was 19 from the bottom of the deck. Fold the paper in fourths and set it on the table with the pencil.

Tell the students that you have made a prediction and from this point on you will not touch the pencil, the paper, or the deck of cards.

Ask the first student to pick up about half of the deck of cards and spread them so that three other students can freely choose 1 card each - they can change cards if they wish. (For this example we will use 3D, 8H, and KS) When everyone is satisfied, have the first student set the half of the deck that he or she took back on top of the deck on the table. Have the first student square the deck, then pick up the whole deck and hold it in his or her hands.

Have the three students that chose cards set them on the table face up. It is now up to the first student to take the value of each of the three cards and subtract it from 10. They then count that many cards face down onto the table (Figure 1).

All jacks, queens, and kings have a value of 10. Aces are worth 1.



$10 - 3 = 7$
Deal 7 cards face
down next to the
3 of diamonds.



$10 - 8 = 2$
Deal 2 cards face
down next to the
8 of hearts.



$10 - 10 = 0$
Deal 0 cards face
down next to the
king of spades.

Now, the first student finds the sum of the values of each card and deals that many cards face down to the table. In this case 21 more cards are dealt face down because $3 + 8 + 10$ (the king) = 21.

The top card of the deck in the first student's hand is the selected card. Have them show it to everyone.

Now, reinforce the fact that you haven't touched the cards and could not have influenced any of the students or their card choices. Have someone read your prediction and show that it matches the chosen card.